

# MINUTES

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## Board of Fire Engineers Board, Committee, Office, Etc.

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Date: October 2, 2017 Time: 6:30 P.M.  
Present: Chief Hamilton, Deputy Chief Rudge, Asst. Chief Gasco,  
Asst. Chief Piscitelli, Asst. Chief Silver  
Absent: None

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Minutes from September 11, 2017 will be amended before they are approved.  
Invoices were signed. Mail was read. Account balances were reviewed.

### **6:45 P.M. FF. WALTER SWENSON**

FF. Swenson met with the Board to answer questions about his interest in the captain's position at Station 3. FF. Swenson said he has interacted with Station 3's crew at incidents and events. He feels he can work with them. He is willing to become FF I/II certified to take officer-training classes at the Mass. Firefighting Academy. He said the crew is young but felt they were valuable. He is familiar with their strengths and weaknesses and sees a need to channel their energy in the right direction. Board members asked several questions including if FF. Swenson could make the truck safely, how he would rally the troops, if he knew the duties of a captain, and if he would be interested in the lieutenant's position if he wasn't appointed captain. Asst. Chief Silver said he saw Swenson with the guys when they stood by in Grafton and when he did pump training. Swenson had their respect. Asst. Chief Silver also spoke with the crew and they are comfortable with Swenson-they feel he is a good choice. FF. Swenson was thanked for his interest and left the meeting.

### **7:00 P.M. FF. TIM CLUETT**

FF. Tim Cluett met with the Board to answer questions about his interest in the captain's position at Station 3. He said he wanted to move forward and would not disappoint the Board. When asked about the crew at Station 3, Cluett said he would like to improve the morale at the station. He said there was a lot of talent at the station and he would like to guide them to do things the right way. Board members asked several questions including if FF. Cluett could make the truck safely, how he would handle skipping to the captain's position, if he knew the duties of a captain, and if he would be interested in the lieutenant's position if he wasn't appointed captain. Asst. Chief Silver asked how Cluett would handle conflicts at the station. FF. Cluett said he would speak to those involved individually and work to bring them together. He would address an unsafe situation immediately. FF. Cluett was thanked for his interest and left the meeting.

Board members discussed the three candidates-(FF. Steve Kosiba was interviewed on 9/11/17). Asst. Chief Silver said the crew at Station 3 needed

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someone to work with them and it wasn't necessary to send a drill sergeant. He again said he saw FF. Swenson work with the guys-he meshes well and knows his stuff. Asst. Chief Silver feels Swenson would do a good job and would stick it out. FF. Kosiba is looking to move to Station 2 when positions open there. Asst. Chief Piscitelli said FF. Swenson has been excited about the opportunity. He also had concerns that FF. Kosiba would not make the truck because of the distance from his home. Board members agreed they were not in favor of having FF. Kosiba respond with Station 2 for mutual aid calls if he was appointed captain. Asst. Chief Gasco said appointing Kosiba as temporary captain and Swenson as lieutenant would give everyone a chance to get some experience and the opportunity for others to shine. Deputy Chief Rudge did not want to break things up again in two years. He felt the two guys who were in tonight had the experience and would bring that to Station 3. Chief Hamilton agreed saying Swenson and Cluett would be a good solution. Further discussion took place with the Board considering appointing just a captain at this time. Asst. Chief Gasco then made a motion to appoint Steven Kosiba as captain and Walter Swenson as lieutenant at Station 3. There was no second to the motion. Asst. Chief Silver made a motion to appoint Walter Swenson as the captain of Station 3 and to leave the lieutenant's position open at this time. Asst. Chief Piscitelli made a second to the motion. Before voting, Deputy Chief Rudge said he had to support the station chief's (Asst. Chief Silver) recommendation, and he would vote in favor of the motion. Discussion took place. Chief Hamilton called for a vote and the motion passed on a 4-1 vote with Asst. Chief Gasco opposed.

### PRE INCIDENT PLANS

There was nothing new to report on pre incident plans.

### OLD & NEW BUSINESS

- Chief Hamilton met with a representative from VFIS. The company is offering critical illness insurance that would cover heart attack, stroke, and some cancers. An estimated cost should be available for the next meeting. VFIS also has a consultant that would review/investigate every claim for the fire department before it is approved. The cost is \$1500 annually.
- Chief Hamilton read a letter of resignation from Michael Couture dated 9/25/17. Asst. Chief Silver made a motion to accept the resignation with regret. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Piscitelli and carried on a 5-0 vote. Mr. Couture asked if he could continue to do inspections. Board members agreed there were enough people on the fire department willing to do them and Couture would be told no.
- Chief Hamilton asked the Board if those who helped with the Grafton station coverage should be paid. Board members agreed they should be paid for their time.



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- Chief Hamilton asked the Board if those who helped with pump training should be paid. Board members agreed they should be paid for their time.
- Asst. Chief Gasco asked if a resignation from the Fire Department was the same as a retirement. Discussion took place. It was agreed that as long as you are vested in the LOSAP (10-years of service), a resignation would be considered as a retirement and you would be able to keep your uniform. Otherwise, the uniform and all gear must be returned.
- Asst. Chief Piscitelli will check on the ceiling repairs at Fire HQ.
- The new building inspector is Paul Stringham. The new D.P.W. Director is Keith Nastasia.
- Chief Hamilton reported there was an issue with some house numbers on McCracken Road. Numbers 54, 56, 58, & 60 need to be corrected.
- Chief Matthew Belsito was elected as the new chairman of District 7. Chief Hamilton was elected as the new secretary.
- FF. Swenson notified the Board that Matt Anderson, Chris Bruinsma, Sam Macconnell, and D.J. Wysote all passed pump training. Jim Goyette still needs to take the final test.
- Chief Hamilton spoke to the owner of 175 West Main Street after the recent fire there. The owner was told the fire alarm system needs to be upgraded to a full system.
- Chief Hamilton reported Millbury received a new fire alarm panel from Northbridge. It will be used as a back-up for the present one.
- The SCBA fill valve needs repair. ICS will be contacted to check it.
- Chief Hamilton told the Board a tanker Strike Team drill will be held in Worcester on 10/7/17. Engine 4 will participate.
- Deputy Chief Rudge said Station 2's generator has been piped in.
- Rt. 146 Supply notified Asst. Chief Gasco that it would cost \$700 to repair the roof saw. Asst. Chief Gasco recommended purchasing a new one for \$1185. Deputy Chief Rudge made a motion to purchase a new roof saw. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Gasco and carried on a 5-0 vote.
- Asst. Chief Piscitelli said there was a good showing at the Firefighters Memorial Service. Board members agreed.
- Asst. Chief Silver told the Board that FF. Medina is available to meet with them on 10/16/17. Notice will be sent and he will be placed on the Agenda for that meeting.
- Asst. Chief Silver asked if the pile of brush on the side of Station 3 could be removed. Chief Hamilton will contact the D.P.W.

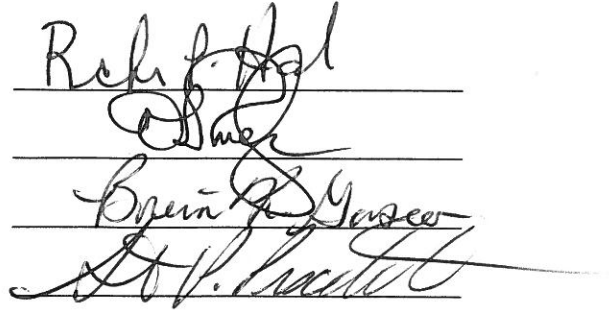
Asst. Chief Piscitelli made a motion to adjourn at 21:00.

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The image shows three handwritten signatures in cursive script, each written over a horizontal line. The first signature is the most legible and appears to be 'Richard [unclear]'. The second signature is less legible but seems to start with 'D. [unclear]'. The third signature is also less legible but appears to start with 'Brian [unclear]'. There are additional horizontal lines below the third signature.

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Regina A. Markey, Head Clerk